

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for disrupting target-cell gene expression at the mRNA level in a ~~mammalian~~ human cell, wherein the method comprises ~~using initiating~~ RNA interference (RNAi) ~~to achieve post-transcriptional gene silencing by exposing the cell to a double stranded RNA homologous to the target gene.~~
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~mammalian~~ human cell is from a cell line.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~4~~ 1, wherein the ~~method further comprises blocking mammalian gene~~ function of the target gene is disrupted ~~encoding the disrupted expression.~~
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~target~~ human cell is a tumor cell.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the ~~target~~ tumor cell is malignant.
9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~6~~ 1, wherein the double stranded RNA is part of a pharmaceutical composition ~~method further comprises producing RNA-based drugs to disrupt target cell expression at the mRNA level.~~

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~6~~ 9, wherein the pharmaceutical composition ~~RNA-based drugs that disrupt target cell expression at the mRNA level, is~~ used to treat human disease.

12.-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a ~~mammalian~~ human subject with an RNA-based disorder or disease by administering to the subject a double stranded RNA ~~dsRNA~~ preparation for initiating RNA interference to cause disruption of target ~~cell~~ gene expression at the mRNA level, wherein the double stranded RNA is homologous to the target gene ~~method comprises using RNAi to achieve post-transcriptional gene silencing.~~

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~16~~ 14, wherein the ~~method further comprises blocking mammalian gene~~ function of the target gene is disrupted ~~encoding the disrupted expression.~~

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the ~~target~~ human cell is a tumor cell.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the ~~target~~ tumor cell is malignant.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~17~~ 14, wherein the double stranded RNA is part of a pharmaceutical formulation ~~method further comprises producing RNA-based drugs to disrupt target cell expression at the mRNA level.~~

21. (Newly Added) The method of claim 11, wherein the human disease is cancer.
22. (Newly Added) A method for disrupting target gene expression at the mRNA level in a human cell, wherein the method comprises providing small interfering RNA guide sequences which are homologous to a portion of the target gene, such that RNAi of the target gene is induced.